

WILLIAM L. BROWN

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**POGONOMYRMEX SALINUS OLSEN, A SYNONYM
OF POGONOMYRMEX OCCIDENTALIS (CRESS.)
(HYMENOPTERA: FORMICIDAE).**

By MARION R. SMITH, Washington, D. C.

Recently in determining a series of *Pogonomyrmex* workers collected by Lee M. Burge from five colonies in Elko County, Nevada, I found that in the keys of Creighton, 1950 (Harvard Univ., Bull. Mus. Compar. Zool. 104: 565 pp., 57 pls.) and Olson, 1934 (Harvard Univ., Bull. Mus. Compar. Zool. 77: 493-514, 15 pls.) specimens exhibiting the most extreme variation could be referred to *salinus* Olsen and specimens with the least variation to *occidentalis* (Cress.)! Upon checking these individuals with the original description of *salinus* I found the variations to be of such a nature that they could well be within the range of a single species. Since Olsen had described *salinus* from a holotype worker, which is now in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, I sent series of workers from all five of the Elko County nests to Dr. W. L. Brown for comparison with the type of *salinus*. After carefully studying the specimens Dr. Brown wrote me as follows, "Olsen's *P. salinus* agrees well with certain specimens among your series—i.e., those having an almost entirely non-transverse-rugose postpetiole and slender, upwardly-directed propodeal teeth of "medium" length. The basigastric shagreening in Olsen's type is not so strong or opaque as in several of your Nevada specimens. I would conclude that on the basis of

the present evidence, *P. salinus* is a straight synonym of *P. occidentalis*." Olsen's single individual of *salinus* represents a considerably advanced degree of variation but one well within the specific range of *occidentalis*.

Studies of various collections of *P. occidentalis* from over a wide range are beginning to indicate that the species is more highly variable than we first thought. At this time, the western harvester ant is known to occur from British Columbia to Oregon and from North Dakota to Oklahoma. Two distributional records are not included in that range although it is possible they are correct. One of these is Weed, Siskiyou County, California, A. C. Cole, and the other Sioux City, Iowa, C. N. Ainslie. The former locality is in northern California and the latter in extreme western Iowa.

Below is a chronological list of the various synonyms of *occidentalis*.

Pogonomyrmex occidentalis (Cresson)

Myrmica occidentalis Cresson, 1865, Proc. Ent. Soc. Phila. 4: 426.

Worker, female. Colo., no specific locality known; types in Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Myrmica seminigra Cresson, 1865, Proc. Ent. Soc. Phila. 4: 427.

Male. Colo., no specific locality known; types in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

Pogonomyrmex opaciceps Mayr, 1870, Verh. Zool.-Bot. Gesell.

Wien. 20: 971. *Worker.* New Mex., no specific locality known, collected by Norton; types presumably in the Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria.

Pogonomyrmex occidentalis ruthveni Gaige, 1914, Proc. Biol. Soc.

Wash. 27: 93. *Worker, female, male.* James Canyon in Elko County, Nev., collected by F. M. Gaige; types in Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan (catalogue number 2283).

Pogonomyrmex salinus Olsen, 1934, Harvard Univ., Bull. Mus.

Compar. Zool. 77: 498, 510. *Worker.* Pl. 5, fig. 3. Near Soda Springs, Bridgeport, Calif., collected by E. C. Jaeger; holotype in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass. New synonymy.